



## Pinal Regional Coordinator Report –

March 2009

### Quality First! Update

**Update on Regional Council Chair and Vice Chair Meeting** - February 5 from 10-3 pm; Phoenix

**Update State Board Meeting** – March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Location FTF office, Phoenix, AZ

### Strategy Work Groups Updates

Professional Development  
Quality and Access  
Family Support  
Health

### Update Funding Plan

A	B	C	D
#	Strategy Name	Description	Regional Allocation
1a	Increase medical professional's use of recommended guidelines for preventative medical and oral health care	Formation of a regional advisory committee to plan and host a annual Early Childhood Development and Health Medical (2010). Conduct a regional medical professional survey identifying CME topics and needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current knowledge of early childhood development</li><li>• Awareness of community resources and referral processes</li><li>• Improving delivery of preventive or developmental delay related services</li><li>• Assistance with informing and designing the future conferences</li></ul>	\$15,000
2a	Increase outreach to address the following critical health needs: insurance enrollment, oral health, nutrition, immunizations, and well child care (medical/dental homes)	Conduct health insurance outreach and enrollment assistance for eligible children.	\$ 100,000
2b	Increase outreach to address the following critical health needs: insurance enrollment,	Physician and health provider outreach and education	\$100,000

	oral health, nutrition, immunizations, and well child care (medical/dental homes)		
<b>2c</b>	Increase outreach to address the following critical health needs: insurance enrollment, oral health, nutrition, immunizations, and well child care (medical/dental homes)	Enhance or expand existing programs and services to address parent knowledge, understanding, and behavior	\$100,000  1rfga- 5-10 opportunities
<b>3</b>	Increase children's access to preventative health care by providing oral, vision, and hearing screening, education and referral	Funding to provide non-invasive vision, hearing, and dental screening, parent and/or child care provider education, and appropriate referral to local health providers.	\$500,000
<b>4</b>	<i>Quality First!</i> Quality Improvement and Rating System	The Pinal Regional Partnership Council is funding 13 centers and 10 child care homes. The First Things First State funds will provide enrollment to 7 center and 5 child care homes.	\$687,700
<b>5a</b>	Provide Child Care Health Consultation; plan for behavioral health consultation	A Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) is a health professional with specialized knowledge of early childhood development, child care and child care regulation, community health and social services. The Regional Council also wants to make CCHC available to 30 additional early care and education programs not enrolled in <i>Quality FIRST!</i> Distribution of kits and management of the project, including evaluation.	\$110,000
<b>5b</b>	Provide Child Care Health Consultation; plan for behavioral health consultation - Study to identify strategies to increase health and safety in unregulated homes	Conduct a study and develop a plan that identifies the best method for providing assistance to increase health and safety at lawful unregulated family homes	\$10,000
<b>5c</b>	Provide Child Care Health Consultation; plan for behavioral health consultation - Behavioral Health Study	Assess needs and design an implementation plan for addressing behavioral health concerns in early care and education settings	\$10,000
<b>6</b>	Recruit and support early care and education home providers	Funding to address lawful unregulated child care homes. 12 monthly trainings to include health & safety, nutrition, developmentally appropriate practices, and best business practices. The child care home providers will participate in an initial and post-training assessment using a recognized quality assessment tool (Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale, Revised Edition). To support homes needing improvements, supplies or training in order to become regulated, funding up to \$2,500 per home will be available.	\$355,000
<b>7</b>	Develop, enhance or expand comprehensive family/parent education and support services through home-visiting to serve families with children prenatal	The Pinal Regional Council will expand home visiting programs to other families. The primary focus of home visiting services is the promotion of effective parenting skills, which also prevents child abuse and neglect. The home visitor works with families to help them obtain	\$400,000

	to ages 3	necessary life skills that will result in their self-sufficiency, while modeling good parenting skills, and providing education about child development and health.	
<b>8a</b>	Improve coordination of Family Support services; and provide enhancement or expansion grants to existing family support services	The Family Support Consortium will be to ensure that all families have the information and support they need to be effective parents through a coordinated network of programs and seamless delivery of services. In order to reach this goal, the first task of the Family Support Consortium will be to identify existing programs, services and opportunities for expansion to meet the needs of families in the Pinal Region.	\$50,000
<b>8b</b>	Improve coordination of Family Support services; and provide enhancement or expansion grants to existing family support services - Family Support Expansion/Improvement Grants	Based upon this work and information, the Pinal Regional Partnership Council will also develop and release grants to offer family education, information, resources and support.	\$200,000 1rfga- 10-20 opportunities
<b>9a</b>	Increase the number of tuition-based college course scholarships	Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP) College Scholarships. Scholarships would be for center or family child care providers not eligible for T.E.A.C.H. – 40 students	\$76,000
<b>9b</b>	Increase the number of tuition-based college course scholarships	National Child Development Associate (CDA) certification process - 40 applications	\$50,250
<b>10</b>	Expand and enhance existing community based early care and education training and support for professional development	Strategy Components include: High Quality Community Based Trainings by a Master Early Care Education (ECE) Trainer Directors' Master Trainer/ Training Coordinator	\$250,000
<b>11</b>	Implement a salary incentive program to increase wages and retain the early care and education workforce	First Things First policy staff is currently researching salary enhancement models, and the Pinal Regional Partnership Council looks forward to using the model as a guide for implementation in the Pinal Region.	\$50,000
<b>12</b>	Coordinate and implement a regional scholarship system to recruit new professionals to the early child care workforce	Funding will expand the number of new professionals entering the early care and education workforce. Scholarships will be made available to recent high school graduates and nontraditional students (older students, career change, stay-at-home parents, and returning college students) that do not qualify for T.E.A.C.H. and Professional Career Pathways Project, because they are not currently employed in early care.	\$75,000
<b>13</b>	<b>(On Hold)</b> Develop an awareness campaign about early childhood development and health and First Things First and increase awareness of programs and services through distribution of resource information	Specifically the Pinal Regional Partnership Council will focus on the following: Engage families, community organizations, business, faith-based organizations, and medical institutions in community mobilization efforts to promote early childhood development and health in the region. Advocate for public policy change and increased resources on behalf of young children and their families.	\$32,500

**First Thing First Summit** – After considerable deliberation, the decision has been made to cancel the 2009 Early Childhood Summit planned for April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Although the Summit is an important and valuable event, the current economic conditions make this cancellation prudent and necessary. First Things First is addressing the urgency of this situation by concentrating its efforts on the implementation of strategies that will provide much needed supports and assistance.

### Community Awareness Meetings:

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#### March 2, 2009 – Pinal & Gila Regional Check Presentation



Regional Press Release Attached